

SBSC Weekly Highlights, June 23-30, 2006

SBSC & Arizona Game and Fish Department Perspectives on Exotic Saltcedar as Bird Habitat: On 23 June, SBSC researcher Mark Sogge spoke to the annual meeting of the Research Branch of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Sogge was invited to the meeting, held at the USGS Flagstaff Science Center, to describe new data regarding the value of saltcedar (also known as tamarisk) on riparian bird species and bird communities. He described the results of more than 10 years of research on the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, a species that frequently nests in saltcedar. These studies have not found a detrimental impact to flycatchers that are breeding in saltcedar. Sogge also described data from other bird species and bird community studies in Grand Canyon, all of which show that many species of birds use saltcedar habitats in at least some parts of the Southwest. Contact: Mark Sogge; 928-606-1286; mark_sogge@usgs.gov